



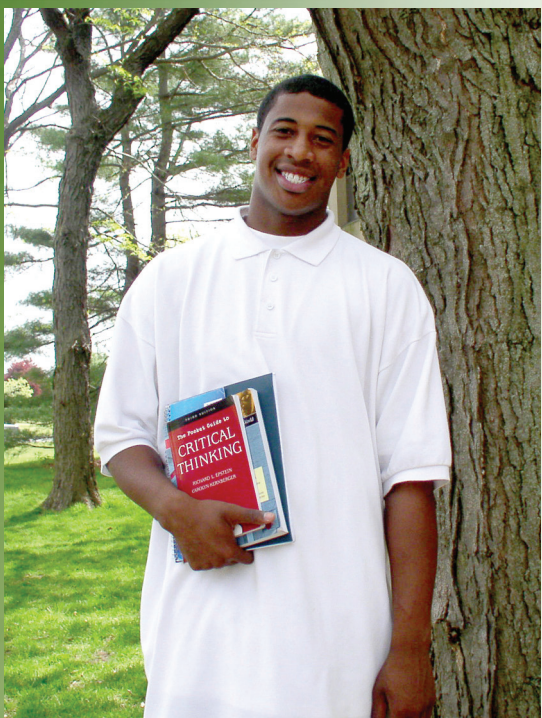
VIKING



Summer 2006

From "Methodist Madness" to College and Beyond

While college basketball fans have moved on from the mania known as "March Madness," in Hightstown, New Jersey, a whole different kind of basketball program is under way for a 12th consecutive year, one that speaks to the powerful role of both the community and of community colleges.



Don McCall is one of two students to receive a scholarship to Mercer.

Two students, Don McCall and Chris DeLaHoz, just completed their first year at MCCC with scholarships donated anonymously through First United Methodist Church in Hightstown. These young men have played basketball on the court next to the church for a number of years through a program the church calls "Methodist Madness," which invites kids to play ball with a group of adult parishioners two evenings a week throughout the summer.

The church is located next to the Hightstown Housing Authority Complex. According to Rev. Neill Tolboom, "We had been looking for a way to connect with the local community. In the beginning, we couldn't get 12 kids out there. But once they figured out that we weren't selling anything and that we didn't bite, the program took off; 156 kids participated last summer. They really look forward to it." Tolboom notes that some of the girls play, while others get into the act singing gospel songs under a nearby tree.

Off the court, the church started to help in other ways. Parishioners distributed goodie bags of healthy snacks, and much needed sneakers and socks with assistance from Walmart and Target. Specially designed "Methodist Madness" t-shirts became hot properties. "If you came to play a few times, you got the t-shirt," Tolboom said. "I see kids wearing them all over town."

The church also began tackling issues of

self-esteem. With donations from a local trophy shop, participants earned trophies in skills competitions. "That went over really big," Tolboom recalled. Other local businesses joined in the effort, including "Johnny's Deli" around the corner, which donated up to \$300 worth of food last year alone.

Another key issue surfaced: How can we help these youngsters be successful academically? Parishioners answered the need by providing students with well-stocked backpacks prior to the start of the school year.

Ultimately, Tolboom began to ponder the future of his oldest "Methodist Madness" players. "Some of these kids had been with us for years and were about to go off into the world. We asked ourselves, 'What can we do to help them be successful?'"

The answer was higher education. The word went out and an anonymous foundation donated enough money for two scholarships, including tuition, a computer, a printer, and books. The group determined that Mercer would be the ideal school because of its comprehensive support services, convenient location and reasonable tuition rates.

Tolboom recalls "the great moment" when the scholarships were made public. "We made the announcement at the Methodist Madness Community Barbecue last summer. Everyone stood up and applauded."

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Graduates prepare for Commencement ceremonies. Front row, second from left, is honors graduate Barbara Flood, who delivered the valedictory address at the Nursing program's awards night.

"Something Wonderful" at MCCC's Commencement

Humberto Solis, student speaker at Commencement ceremonies on May 25, wrote a song in the college's honor. His inspirational speech, and his song "Something Wonderful, Something Good," elicited tears and cheers from the graduates and their family members.

Solis is one of 834 graduates of Mercer in 2006. According to Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid, who opened the ceremonies, more than 29,000 students have graduated from Mercer in the past 39 years. This year, the Nursing and Humanities/Social Science programs accounted for the greatest number of graduates.

Keynote speaker Christy Stephenson, CEO of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at



Hamilton, encouraged the graduates to find their passion in life. "The passion that we have is how we reach out to other people."

Solis echoed her words when he spoke about going after his dream. The career-changer and father of four spoke about overcoming illness to be re-energized by his studies at Mercer. "I finally had some steak to chew," he said. In

addition to his studies, Solis acted in theatricals at Kelsey Theatre, created radio ads, and participated in charity fundraisers as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Solis is the first graduate of the college's new Entertainment Technology program. This fall he will enter Temple University's program in Film Media Arts.

Your Best Choice!

short takes



New Main Entrance for the James Kerney Campus

The James Kerney Campus is sporting a new main entrance on North Broad Street in Trenton. The 2000-square-foot glass-walled addition, to be completed this summer, houses a new entry lobby, security booth, and classroom.

New Administrators Join the Mercer Family



Dr. Edwin A. Martinez brings a wealth of experience to his new position as dean for Mercer's Division of Science and Health Professions. Dr. Martinez served five years as dean of Science, Math and Engineering at Ocean County College. Most recently he was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Louisiana State University at Alexandria. His career included positions at the College of Science and Technology at Texas A&M International University, the University of West Florida and the State University of New York-College at Old Westbury. Martinez earned his Ph.D. in Zoology and Physiological Ecology from the University of New Hampshire.

The Distinguished Lecture Series Broadens Horizons



Pulitzer Prize-winning author James McPherson (center) recently presented a lecture on the Civil War as part of MCCC's Distinguished Lecture Series. He is pictured with Acting Pres. Tom Wilfrid (left) and Prof. Emeritus Saul Goldwasser, who recommended McPherson. During the fall and spring semesters, Mercer welcomes a variety of speakers from different disciplines in the arts and sciences. Lectures are presented free and are open to the public.

GED Prep Course Now Available Online Through MCCC

Those seeking to earn a high school equivalency diploma can now take a General Educational Development (GED) preparation course online at an affordable cost.

Students have use of all college facilities, and graduates can take part in the James Kerney Campus Honors Night each May. Applicants take a placement test before beginning the course to determine starting levels of reading and math.

MCCC also offers free classes for adult education and GED preparation at its James Kerney Campus. The online program is ideal for those who, because of work and family commitments, find it difficult to attend class in person. For more information contact Program Coordinator Adrienne Dixon at 609-570-3130 or e-mail dixona@mccc.edu.



Jacob Eapen joined MCCC in March as vice president for Administration and chief business officer. He supervises Information Technology, Finance, Human Resources, Purchasing, Facilities and Security. Mr. Eapen most recently served as assistant commissioner of budget, finance, administration, real estate and information technology for the New Jersey Department of Human Services. Previously he was with the City of Trenton, and the City of Newark. He earned a bachelor's degree in management from Roosevelt University in Chicago, a master's in social work administration from Washington University in St. Louis, and an MBA in Management from Rutgers University.

Nursing Graduates Can Now Earn Their Bachelor's Degree Online

Graduates of Mercer's Nursing program now have the opportunity to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) online through the University of Wisconsin (UW) at Green Bay. Graduates will be able to initially transfer as many as 66 of their Mercer credits for the 120 credit hours required. In addition, they may take additional coursework at Mercer that matches the UW curriculum, allowing transfer of up to 24 more credit hours. The remaining 30 required credits would be taken online through the UW's BSN-LINC program.

For more information contact UW-Green Bay at 1-877-656-1483 or visit www.bsn-linc.wisconsin.edu.

Nursing Program Honors 31 May Graduates



Mercer continues to provide the community with needed Nursing graduates who will staff our hospitals and clinics long into the future. During the past school year, 62 students have graduated from the program, which qualifies them to take the state exam for registered nurses. They have found a welcoming job market.



Student Returns from Iraq

A Business Administration student at Mercer, Alina Gutierrez recently returned from active duty in Iraq. She sent this photo of herself flying over the desert.



Africans in the Diaspora Lecture Series a Success

The brainchild of Professor Noreen Duncan, a Mercer faculty member for 27 years, the "Africans in the Diaspora" lecture series this spring shed new light on the history, culture, art and literature of Africans throughout the world, while showcasing the expertise of MCCC's talented faculty. According to Duncan, "At Mercer we have some very fine faculty members in our Liberal Arts and Arts and Communication Division. This series enabled them to share their expertise with the entire community."

Dean Diane Campbell's lecture, *The First Moments of Freedom: Education and Social Planning in the Aftermath of Slavery*, drew a packed house to Kerney Hall on the James Kerney Campus. She discussed the clashing philosophies of African American leaders of the time and explained cultural influences that con-

From left, Professor Noreen Duncan, Dean Diane Campbell and JKC Assistant Provost Monica Weaver get together before Dr. Campbell's lecture presented at the James Kerney Campus to kick off the "Africans in the Diaspora" lecture series.

tinue to be observed today, such as respecting and honoring elders, using drums and dance during worship services, and preserving oral history. Campbell discussed the establishment of Black colleges after the abolition of slavery, which numbered around 17.

During Music Program Coordinator James Kelly's moving lecture, *Syncretism and Cultural Memory in African-American Music*, he said, "Slaves were allowed to sing." That singing – in the form of street cries, work songs, call and response songs, story-telling songs – saved an important part of African culture. "American popular music is totally Africanized," said Kelly.

During his lecture, Kelly played audio clips from authentic African songs and modern popular music, and demonstrated musical forms on a guitar and piano. "For the African, music is a cultural and existential necessity," he said.

In her lecture, *Celebrating Africans Who Changed Our History*, Dr. Renee Walker discussed how diasporic women changed their civilizations in Egypt, Greece, and the Americas. Walker observed that much of American scholarship is based on the history of war and

patriarchy, so we overlook significant, non-violent social change that was engineered by women of color. "African women introduced us to social equality; dark women popularized emotionally intelligent poetry; and, America's mother culture has a West African oral and written tradition," she said.

The eight lectures attracted a great deal of interest from students and community members. Other lecturers included faculty members Marta Bermudez, Alwyn Haywood, Bethuel Hunter, John Makonie and Sharmila Sen.



Assistant Professor James Kelly demonstrates African musical forms during his lecture.

Building Connections and Buildings Via Mercer's Architecture Program

When Benedetto ("Ben") Catarinicchia, owner and president of C-Squared Architects in Hamilton, considers hiring new employees, he is always happy to interview students from the Architecture program at Mercer County Community College. In his experience, they come ready to do the job.

"The best thing about Mercer grads is that they are prepared to learn," Catarinicchia says. "We don't expect a new employee to come in and be able to put together a complete set of construction documents on their own. But with a little training, these employees get up to speed fast. They are way beyond what you would expect from interns."

Catarinicchia knows from personal experience. He received his associate degree in Architecture at Mercer in 1992, where he met fellow Architecture student Manny Aguilar, now a colleague at his firm. Another C-Squared associate, Patricia Moran Totaro, graduated from the Mercer Architecture program in the 1980s. Also on staff are Jane Alcorn, a 2005 graduate, and Sarah Webster, who will graduate later this year.

According to Catarinicchia, Mercer was the perfect way to start his thriving career. "When I went to Mercer, I knew I wanted to do something in the architecture field. The program was very good, with small class sizes." He won the Architecture Award as a Mercer student.

Catarinicchia continued his education at the University of Arizona. His Mercer foundation prepared him for this intense and highly competitive program. "Of the 130 who applied, only 32 got in. It was portfolio-based. I knew how to put one together."

After college, Catarinicchia headed for California, where he got his architecture license, the first of numerous state licenses he

has acquired. "I worked for a firm that eventually sent me back east to set up a shop in the late '90s. Then the 'dot.com' bubble burst and I started out on my own," he explained.

Catarinicchia has seen his business grow as he has taken on a long list of projects and increased his staff. While specializing in restaurants and commercial properties, the firm also works on residential projects, both new construction and renovations, as well as low-cost housing development, and medical, industrial and office design. "We are a full service firm that can take basically any project from planning through construction," he said. The firm's client list runs the gamut from banks to schools

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Methodist Madness *continued from page 1*

Our goal, Tolboom says, is to make better communities. "You don't do that by giving money and going away. You don't improve people's lives just by sharing resources; you do it by sharing access – to education and connections. I'm more proud of this program than anything else we have done."

Currently undecided, Chris DeLaHoz is exploring potential majors as he completes general education requirements. "Mercer gives you a chance to experiment," he said. He is grateful for the church's financial help, which enables him to attend school debt-free. "When I heard about the scholarship, I jumped at the chance," he said. He plans to transfer on for a bachelor's degree.

McCall is focused on earning his associate and bachelor's degrees in Education, with a plan to teach elementary school. During his years in "Methodist Madness," McCall, a talented basketball player, attracted a lot of

youngsters to his team. His popularity led him to think of a career working with children. And his current part-time job at a day care center, where he works 20 hours a week while going to college, has confirmed the skills he will need – patience, energy and kindness.

McCall reports that his time at Mercer has been great so far. "Mercer starts you off where you are comfortable so you can grow academically. Every door is opening for me. All I have to do is walk through. I feel like a lot of love and care has come my way. The first year out of high school, you need that."

McCall, who played basketball for the MCCC Vikings this season, really "felt the love" at his last home game on February 18 when a whole crowd of United Methodists showed up to cheer him on. His teammates wanted to know who all these other parents were, as they held up signs reading "Go Don."



Members of the C-Squared family, left to right, are Manny Aguilar, Pat Totaro, Sarah Webster, Jane Alcorn, and owner/president Ben Catarinicchia.



The Hospitality Club at work during the Honors Convocation. From left are Patricia Badessa, Andrea Barrett, Lucia Scotto, teaching assistant Frank Benowitz, and Sandra Smith.

Hospitality Club Turns Up the Heat; Advisor and Students Recognized for Efforts

If you've never tasted student Rodney Wright's "famous bread pudding," you're missing out on something deliciously sweet and delectably gooey – in short, a simply wonderful dessert. Indeed, word of Wright's magnificent desserts has spread throughout the campus. When the Hospitality Club hosts its weekly bake sales, people start lining up. "They get upset if we run out," said club advisor Frank Benowitz, a teaching assistant in the Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (HRIM) program.

The Hospitality Club is everywhere these days, catering college events and representing the college at numerous events off campus. Enrollment in the HRIM program has been growing steadily – about 10% a year – in both credit and noncredit areas. Half the students concentrate in culinary fields, while others pursue event planning and management. "There are fantastic job opportunities, both hourly and salaried," Benowitz said.

The club's outstanding work has been duly recognized. Benowitz, Wright and the 39-member Hospitality Club were honored at Mercer's Student Activities Banquet in May. According to Benowitz, who is himself a 1993 graduate of the program and served as club president in the early '90s, the club lost steam after he graduated, but has since been revived under HRIM coordinator Doug Fee, who joined the staff in 1998. In the past few years, there has been a whole lot of cooking going on.

"This club is a huge benefit to students. It gives them a chance to lead an event," Benowitz said. "They participate because they want to. It's a great selling point when they look for a job."

In the past year alone, club members have catered numerous large-scale affairs – a Thanksgiving luncheon for 80 students of the Student Activities Board, the International Student Organization's Festival of Lights celebration in December, refreshments for hundreds of community guests at the *Aspirations* reception and the college's April Open House, a gourmet spread for the annual Advisory Commission Dinner, and the Honors Convocation dinner for students and families. They also participated in community service projects, this year raising money for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

"We have taken it to the next level," Benowitz said. "Some of what we serve would cost three times the price, but our students are

volunteers so we don't have a labor charge. Depending on the event's budget, we can put a lot of extra money into the menu." At the Advisory Commission dinner, for example, the club served duck and buffalo steaks. For a less costly menu, the club might suggest chicken and fish. "That's one of the exercises," he said, "learning how to price things out."

Like other Mercer students, club members are juggling school, work, and family responsibilities. "But our students commit to this process," Benowitz said. "There are hours and days of preparation, often starting early in the morning. People don't realize the amount of dedication it takes. At this point the students carry out tasks with little or no direction."

Rodney Wright is clearly one such student. "I like what I do. It's not about winning awards. It's my passion, working with food and teaching others. It's a good people environment."

After having numerous jobs in the industry, Wright decided it was time to get the book work under his belt at Mercer. "The program has been great. It has pulled me up in my weak areas. I see feedback as positive; it makes me stronger. I've learned a lot and I continue to learn a lot."

As Hospitality Club president, Wright oversees the planning for every event. "I 'cover' everybody, doing what I can to help the program be strong. I develop ideas for fundraising and propose what we should do with the money," Wright said. With two more classes to go, he hopes to jump right into the Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) program offered on the MCCC campus, where he can earn his bachelor's degree. One of his role models is Benowitz, who completed his B.S. in Business/Hotel Restaurant Management through Thomas Edison State College and will complete his master's in Hospitality Studies through FDU in December, 2006. Benowitz also completed the Certified Hospitality Educator (CHE) Program this past year.

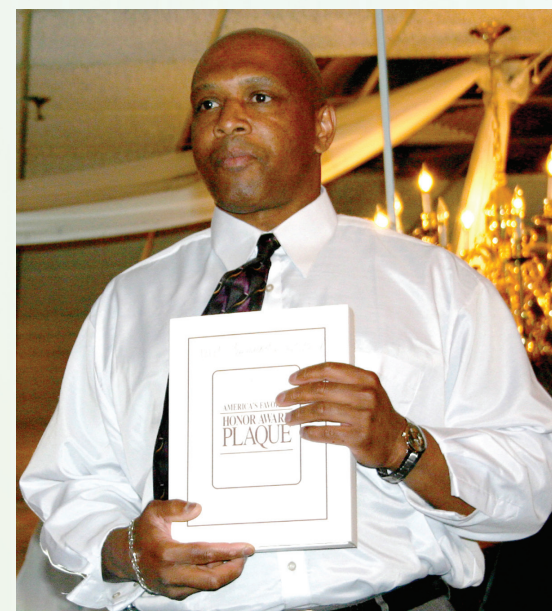
Another student who has made the most of her time at Mercer is Patricia Badessa, who graduated in May after serving as club vice president. She will transfer to San Diego State University to study hospitality and event planning. Club treasurer Nicole Leon, who managed the books and planned budgets for special events, is also transferring to continue her studies.

Fee notes that participation in the Hospitality Club is a great resume builder. Premium job offers often cross his desk. "We are happy to recommend our Hospitality Club students," he said. "They have proven that they want a career, not just a job." Many job leads originate with program graduates who are working in the industry or have their own restaurants.

Local businesses have taken note of the program's new momentum. In the past year, five new scholarships have been created through the generosity of Rats, Princeton Marriott, Firmenich, Sysco Foods, and Java Moon Café. Half the money will be used for student tuition; the other half will be spent on new chef jackets inscribed with the companies' logos.

The awards, said Benowitz, were "like icing on the cake. We've come a long way and we hope the momentum continues. I believe the club's sustainability is built in. Students can get involved at any level of event planning; we give them the freedom to create dishes." It also gives them a reason to stay connected with the college; according to Benowitz, graduates frequently volunteer to help out with special events.

"This year was extraordinary," he said. "There were more opportunities than ever for learning, teamwork and enjoyment. We are whistling while we work."



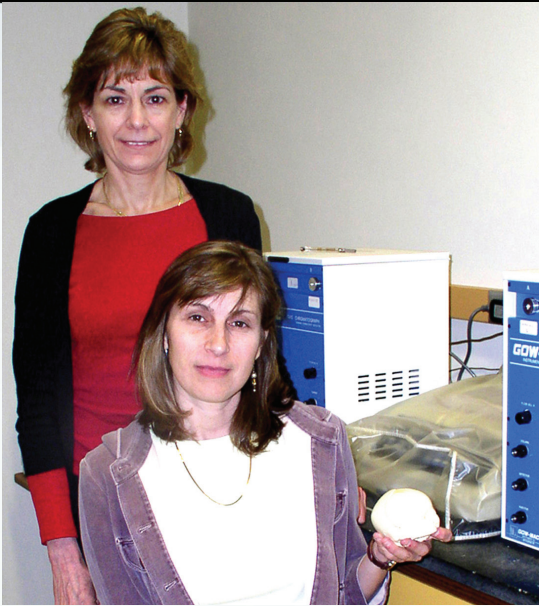
Hospitality Club President Rodney Wright accepts the "Student of the Year" award.

New "Culinology" Program Leads to Rutgers

Blending science with the culinary arts, Mercer's newest major in "Culinology™" will prepare graduates for careers developing food products in industry settings. Offered in collaboration with Rutgers University, the program enables students to pursue the Rutgers B.S. degree in Interdisciplinary Food Science after completing Mercer's program.

According to faculty member Doug Fee, who coordinates the college's culinary and hospitality programs, Culinology offers the best of both worlds as it combines MCCC's strong program in the culinary arts with proven programs in food science at Rutgers University. "Today there is a strong demand for culinary research chefs who understand the science behind their art, and for food scientists who understand the art associated with the science. By bringing them together we hope to develop a new class of professionals."

For more information contact Doug Fee at 609-570-3447.



Faculty members Helen Tanzini and Laura Blinderman (holding a skull model).

New Course Teaches Science Through Forensics

While CHE 106, a new course for non-science majors, will not turn students into the next great crime-scene investigators, it will offer them a unique way to learn important biology and chemistry concepts.

Developed by Laura Blinderman, associate professor in Biology, and Helen Tanzini, associate professor in Chemistry, the forensics focus provides a mechanism to get students immersed in the subject matter. Created as a general education science elective, it will be offered for the first time in the fall.

"The timing is so right," said Tanzini. "Students are interested in this area because of popular television shows." Tanzini notes that the college has been very supportive, awarding her and Blinderman a mini-grant in the spring of 2004 to develop the course.

Entertainment Tech Program Adds "Music and Sound Technology"

Beginning this fall, Mercer's Entertainment Technology program is offering a new concentration in "Music and Sound Technology" adding to its original "Lighting and Sound Technology" concentration.

In cooperation with the college's Music program, the new option integrates music theory and performance with technical and business skills. Graduates will be prepared to enter a variety of career tracks in the music industry, such as record producer, recording engineer, remix engineer, sound technician for live shows and concerts, and careers such as film scoring, film music editing, promotion and marketing.

Television Students Win Scholarship and Video Award

Mercer faculty member Steve Voorhees, left, with graduates Mike Marazzo and Mark Zangara and faculty member Barry Levy at MCCC's Honors Convocation in May. Television majors, Marazzo and Zangara were co-recipients of the WZBN Television Scholarship Award and won the top prize for their jointly-produced murder-mystery video at "The Bernie Awards," Mercer's version of the Oscars. This new awards night, sponsored by the Television program, included showing the most highly-rated student videos as judged by MCCC faculty members. The final awardees were selected by a group of outside experts.

Technical Studies Program for Apprentices Starts This Fall

Mercer has helped to develop a statewide initiative through which community colleges will offer an A.A.S. degree in Technical Studies to apprentices in the building and construction trades. The program, called New Jersey Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education (NJPLACE), will enable registered apprentices to gain up to 25 college credits based on their training. Statewide, 196 students have already enrolled, with many additional students expected to begin their studies this fall.

According to Mark McCormick, MCCC acting vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, Mercer was on board from the program's inception. "NJPLACE is an example of work-force development at its best – recognizing the value of work experience and helping students build on it." He adds that community colleges are the ideal setting for the program because they offer open access, convenience and affordability.

Maureen E. King, statewide NJPLACE director, knows all about the value of community colleges. A "non-traditional" student, she attended MCCC after having a family, graduating with highest honors in 2000 with an A.A. in Humanities and Social Science. A member of the PTK National Honor Society, she continued her education at Rutgers, studying labor relations for her B.A. and masters degrees in the School of Management and Labor Relations.

King is a strong supporter of the program she helped develop. "NJPLACE is based on the idea that job-related skills are not an alternative to college, but rather a pathway to a college degree," she said.



MCCC alum Maureen King (center), the statewide coordinator for NJPLACE, with Acting VP Mark McCormick and Acting Dean of Business and Technology Kristen Callahan.

Building Connections *continued from page 3*

to hotels and restaurants, and from small businesses to large corporations.

Totaro, who joined C-Squared last year, enjoys the fact that so many employees share a common Mercer background. An active alum, she serves on MCCC's Architecture Advisory Commission, teaches occasionally as an adjunct professor, and reviews student projects along with Catarinicchia. "We act as 'pseudo-clients,'" she explained. "I feel that it's important to give back to the program that set me on my path. If I can reach out to a student who might have a serious interest in the field, that's good.

"Mercer was great for me," Totaro noted. "I got support, resources and instruction to be ready for the next step." Totaro transferred to NJIT following Mercer to earn her bachelor's degree in Architecture. She also met her husband Joe at Mercer. He currently works for the architectural firm CUH2A in Princeton, another frequent employer of MCCC graduates.

Mercer was also the right solution for Alcorn and Webster. "There was great flexibility in my class schedule, so I was able to work while going to school," Alcorn said. She

has been working at C-Squared for two years, where she has learned a lot that has translated to the classroom. "My work in the office has been a definite advantage. It provides a practical element that really helps with school work."

Webster added, "It has been much less expensive. Plus it's close to home."

Architecture interns often are assigned the task of "drafting," which means transferring site data to a computer using computer-aided design (CAD). Alcorn spends much of her time on site planning for residential and commercial development, while Webster specializes in commercial properties like the healthy-alternative Amazon Cafes, a fast-growing franchise. Both women plan to complete their degrees at Drexel University while continuing to work.

Aguilar agrees that Mercer served as a true stepping stone. "It gave me a background in the history of architecture. We expanded our thinking and learned to look at design in different ways. There was good interaction between professors and students, and between students and students." In this case that interaction became a bond, one that has led to the successful collaboration known as C-Squared Architects.





Pictured at the PASS program awards night are four of the eight students who achieved perfect 4.0 averages. Program director Khalida Haqq is second from left, with Acting President Thomas Wilfrid, center. Students, from left, are Adenike Oluyomi, Dominique Sweat, Eric Marguise Blackmon-Hayes, and Kishore Ramesh Udeshi.

and easy way to alert Haqq's staff to students who may be headed for trouble. "Excessive absences, poor grades, and distracted or distressed behavior in class are all signs of a problem," Haqq said. "Mid-semester progress reports may be too late for some students."

Based on positive results with EOF and SSS students, Haqq believes PASS will have equal success. "What we do works," she said. "I feel confident that it's going to make a real difference - helping these students be more successful learners. That's what improves student retention."

PASS Helps Students Stay on Track

What does it take to be successful in college? For some, the transition from high school to higher learning comes easily. But for many others, college aspirations become derailed by a lack of essential survival skills.

According to Dr. Khalida Haqq, director of Programs for Academic Services and Success (PASS), she and her staff have been working to change that. She notes that for years a successful retention program has been in place for students who enter Mercer as part of the state's Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) and/or the federal Student Support Services (SSS) program, but until recently no mechanism existed for other students in need of support. With student retention highlighted as a goal in the college's 2002 strategic plan, Haqq developed the Retention Services program to serve all students in 2003.

Haqq has focused her efforts on the "First-Year Experience," a concept that is well established at four-year schools nationwide and at more than half of community colleges. "I'm a firm believer in 'front end' activities that assist students in making the transition to col-

lege," she said. The PASS model includes a two-credit College Success Seminar, a new student assessment survey, an academic alert system, and peer-mentoring.

During the PASS admissions process, an assessment is made of the students' skills, needs, and potential for success. "At the beginning, many college students are anxious. They don't know if they can do the work; they don't know what they want to do with their lives," Haqq explained. "Once they decide on a career direction, they become more focused and committed."

The College Success Seminar class (CSS 101) is offered to all new students each semester. Taught by faculty members and counselors, the curriculum includes time management and note-taking skills as well as test-taking techniques.

"The course also focuses on interpersonal dynamics," Haqq said. "We teach students how to speak up for themselves." For others, classroom etiquette is a focus.

Another PASS component, the academic alert system, gives faculty members an early

In Touch from Afghanistan



Larry Rosenthal, a member of the New Jersey National Guard, and a returning student in IT Networking, is currently serving in Afghanistan. Mercer has become a family affair, as his daughter is currently enrolled and his son took summer courses last year. Rosenthal has high praise for Mercer's faculty and staff, especially Veterans Affairs Director Paul Scheid, whose "skill, professionalism and sense of humor made it go easy."

College Phone System Enables Direct Dial

Now you can reach MCCC's staff and faculty members directly by dialing 570 before their extension number. For example, if someone's extension is 1234, dial 609-570-1234. The college's main number, 609-586-4800, remains the same. The extension numbers at the James Kerney Campus have changed and are listed in the online directory at www.mccc.edu.

Stay Connected with



Now you can stay on top of what's happening at Mercer! Let us know your e-mail address and we'll send you our new monthly bulletin via email.

Through the e-News @ MCCC you'll learn about new programs and services. You'll also learn what's happening in your favorite program - including alumni events and reunions, faculty news and much more.

To stay in the loop, send your e-mail address to enews@mccc.edu with the word "subscribe." We look forward to keeping you informed.

James Kerney Campus Celebrates Achievement

Excitement was in the air on May 9, when Mercer's James Kerney Campus (JKC) celebrated the academic achievements of students completing credit and noncredit programs. MCCC Vice President and JKC Provost Dr. Beverly Richardson, who opened the program, noted that 28 credit program graduates who began their studies at JKC, or took most of their courses there, were among those being honored.

In noncredit programs the honorees included 14 Career Training Institute graduates in the Culinary program and 36 in Office Automation. There were a record 83 graduates in the GED program and 85 graduates of the English Language Institute, coming from 35 different countries. Many noncredit program graduates plan to begin credit courses at Mercer. Dr. Richardson echoed the thoughts of many with her comment, "It doesn't get any better than this."

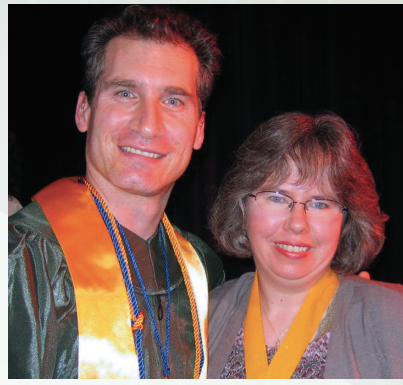


Graduate Nyanda Kamara, a mathematics major, spoke for many at the James Kerney Campus "Celebration of Academic Achievement" when she said the campus "is not only a learning institution, it was a home for me."

Phi Theta Graduates Excel



Graduates Jessica Harhigh, left, and Marie Luisi were selected to New Jersey's "All-State Academic Team" for 2006 by the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) National Honor Society. On May 4 they joined honorees from New Jersey's other 18 community colleges at a celebration hosted by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges and supported by PSE&G. Harhigh is a Communications major who will transfer to Rowan University. Luisi, a Humanities and Social Science major, will transfer to Rider University. Both attended Mercer on full scholarships from New Jersey STARS, a state-funded program for top high school students.



Radiography graduate Peter Rossin, left, with Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society President Lynn Rowlands, during a special pinning ceremony immediately prior to graduation. The PTK Honor Society welcomes students with grade point averages of 3.5 or higher and opens up scholarship opportunities to New Jersey's four-year colleges.

Betty Cornelius Named Distinguished Teacher

"I regard it a high honor to be named a Distinguished Teacher, particularly in an institution that values good teaching so highly," said Professor Betty Cornelius as she accepted the award at MCCC's Commencement ceremonies.

"I have dedicated my career to enabling students to overcome their anxiety, to learn math, and be successful," she said. Some of my students have even decided to be math majors or found for the first time that they could really do math. For teachers, it doesn't get better than that."

Cornelius has taught mathematics at Mercer for 35 years. She was selected for the award by faculty, staff and students. "To the graduates, I want to say I hope you can choose a career that will be as satisfying as mine has been for me."



Student Has Right Stuff for Career in Radiography

Since Kyle Williams began taking classes at MCCC three years ago to pursue a career in radiography, he has learned to work and study – in short, to live – without much sleep.

Yet his energy and enthusiasm have sustained him and served as an inspiration to those around him. Williams, who completes Mercer's Radiography program this summer with a final clinical rotation, has worked the 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift as an emergency room technician at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton (RWJ) throughout his time at Mercer. On a typical day he would do a quick change out of his E.R. uniform and then either report down the hall at the hospital for an eight-hour clinical rotation in radiography, or stop home to see his family and then head for class at Mercer.

When he first told Radiography Program Coordinator Sandra Kerr the schedule he was planning to follow, she was concerned that it would prove too challenging. "But I was determined. I had to make it," Williams said. A casualty of the information technology layoffs after 9/11, Williams embarked on his new career at the age of 39.

Drawn to the medical field, Williams said, "The whole environment feels right. Medical terminology comes naturally to me. And I love helping people." After taking courses in EKG and phlebotomy, Williams began work in the emergency room, but decided to study radiography when a fellow employee encouraged him to consider the field.

Williams recalls that, as a young man, he didn't have a lot of career guidance. After high school he attended Arizona State University, majoring in architecture and minoring in music. "I was successful in school, but I didn't know what I wanted to do. Information technology was an exciting new field and, although I made it to the top of the chain in computers, the medical field is definitely where I belong."

And, with technology playing an ever bigger role in the radiography field, Williams says his background has been a definite plus. "Diagnostic films are going digital, and physicians read them on a computer screen in the office or from home. That reliance on technology is



From left, Radiography faculty member Bill Petrosky, Program Coordinator Sandra Kerr and graduate Kyle Williams.

only going to expand."

Far from feeling out of place, Williams enjoyed mentoring the younger students in his program. "I have tended to be the 'Dad.' It was great to be able to bring my outside hospital experience into the classroom. It shows that there is always something left to accomplish." A dean's list student, Williams notes, "If you really want to achieve, you find a way."

In the fall Williams will fulfill the final requirement for certification in his field when he takes the national exam administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. He is confident about passing the test. "Our professors tell us they want to prepare us for the ultimate test. We begin from day one," Williams said. To help with the demanding curriculum, students take numerous practice certification exams that count for a grade. They also study and do lab work in groups. "Everyone wants everyone else to succeed," Williams said. "We talk to each other and share information. In radiography, the knowledge is used over and over. We don't just learn it and move on. Now I can do it with my eyes closed."

MCCC Radiography grads have consistent-

ly delivered on the national certification exam, achieving a 100% pass rate for the 13 years since Kerr was appointed program coordinator. In 2005, based on the high scores of the 14 MCCC students who took the test, the New Jersey Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners awarded Mercer a no. 2 ranking out of the 17 accredited programs in New Jersey.

According to Kerr, all of the program's graduates are currently employed at area health care facilities or are pursuing advanced education in radiologic technology. Williams has been offered a full-time position at RWJ as a CT technologist. He plans to continue his education for a bachelor's degree with the goal of becoming a radiologist assistant.

Despite his hectic schedule, Williams has unexpectedly found more time for his family. "I used to spend a lot of time commuting. When I worked in New York, I would often get home late at night and be back on the train early the next morning."

Williams says his family has been very supportive of his educational pursuits. "This has been a great example for my two daughters."

Scholarships Star at "Hollywood Lights" Dinner Dance

The MCCC 2006 Scholarship Dinner Dance drew hundreds of supporters to the Hyatt Regency Princeton on March 11. A festive evening with a serious goal, the event's proceeds will fund scholarships for deserving students.

"Many thanks to our very generous supporters – our corporate sponsors, advertisers, auction donors, and guests," said Acting President Tom Wilfrid. "We are so fortunate to have a long list of these supporters. Each one of you is an essential partner who truly cares about our college's students and our county's future. We greatly appreciate your generosity."

"The Distinguished Corporate Friend" awardee, Roma Bank, has a long history of supporting MCCC and its students. President and CEO Peter Inverso served as a member of the college's Board of Trustees from 1984 to 1986. Chairman Maurice Perilli is a former member of the administrative staff. In 2004 Roma established a scholarship fund for students majoring in health professions at Mercer, which continues each year. In recognition of their ongoing commitment to education, the college named the auditorium of its Conference Center the "Roma Bank Auditorium."

Honored with the "Community Service Award," the principals of the Borden-Perlman Insurance Company are actively involved with numerous social service organizations. Richard Perlman served on the MCCC Board of Trustees from 1983 to 2000, and as chair from 1995 to 1998. He is currently a member of the college's Foundation Board.

"Person of the Year" HelenMarie Dolton began her career at the college in 1967, when she was hired to establish the Nursing program, now one of the college's largest. After serving as chair of Nursing, then chair of Nursing and Allied Health, Dolton became dean of the Division of Science and Allied Health. During her tenure she applied for and received several major grants to facilitate the Nursing program's growth, including a federal grant which enabled the college to build its science building.



Roma Bank received the "Distinguished Corporate Friend" award. Pictured above, from left, are MCCC Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid, Roma Bank Chairman Maurice Perilli, Roma Bank president and CEO Peter Inverso, and MCCC Foundation Board Chair, Tim Losch.



This year's co-chairs were Maureen Lucido of the Hyatt Regency Princeton, left, and Nina Melker of Yardville National Bank.



Dean Emerita HelenMarie Dolton is escorted to the podium by MCCC President Emeritus John Hanley to accept the "Person of the Year" award.



Borden Perlman Insurance Company was honored with the "Community Service Award." Pictured, from left, company owners Doug Borden and Jeffrey Perlman, and company founder Richard Perlman.



Golf Classic Benefits Student Athletes

Enjoying the MCCC Foundation's Golf Outing on June 13 are supporters Steven Ritzau, Buzz Ritzau and Ed Giacobbe. Held annually in memory of former Foundation Board member, Dr. Cynthia Schaffer, the event's proceeds benefit student-athletes. The 2006 major sponsors included Borden-Perlman Insurance Company, Spiezel Group and Yardville National Bank. The Haldeman Dealerships sponsored a hole-in-one.

ALUMNI



For Mercer Alumnus, Success at Home and Abroad

You might say Jeff Sinding got every single thing he had hoped for out of his Mercer experience.

Sinding, who graduated in 1996 with an associate degree in Liberal Arts and Humanities, was encouraged by his professors to work hard in college. "They inspired me to take on challenges I never thought I could manage."

Sinding continued his education at Rider University, graduating with honors and a B.S. in Business Administration. Combining his business knowledge with his love for the Humanities, he took a job as an admissions counselor at Felician College, a Catholic college with campuses in Lodi and Rutherford, New Jersey.

Just one year later, Sinding's job took an international turn, as he traveled to East Asia with

"Parental Advisory" Show Hits Funny Bone

MCCC Theatre major Keenan Westcott believes in staying busy. "I'm not the kind of guy to sit at home playing video games." Westcott is putting his credo to the test at Mercer, where he is actively pursuing every opportunity available to MCCC Theatre students, as well as creating some of his own.

Westcott and fellow student Josiah DeAndrea found themselves in the spotlight – literally – in January for a show they conceived as a joke, and then developed into a reality with the encouragement of their Mercer instructor, Kitty Getlik. A first at MCCC, the "Parental Advisory" comedy show drew an audience of 200 to Kelsey Theatre on January 21. In a little over two hours, eight comedians presented a wide range of material – from racy, hard-edged humor that justified the show's "Parental Advisory" warning to observational snippets a la *Seinfeld*. In between acts, Westcott and DeAndrea served as hosts and tried out some of their own material.

"You never know how the audience is going to react," Westcott said. "In our opening bit, Josiah and I did a parody of the movie

the goal of encouraging Asian students to attend college at Felician. Within six months of his first trip in 1999, Felician welcomed 14 new Asian students. Since then, Felician has been the college of choice for approximately 500 exchange students from South Korea and Japan.

Promoted to director of a new International Student Services department, Sinding developed an Intensive English and American Culture Program. Following successful completion, students may pursue coursework for their bachelor's degrees. Sinding has also helped to develop similar programs overseas for high school and college students in Japan. Some of those same students have turned up in his classes at Felician.

"My career is rising every year," Sinding said. "I could have never imagined that I could have

Brokeback Mountain. I thought to myself, 'If this doesn't work, it's going to be a long night.' But they laughed and I knew it would be okay."

Auditions for the show attracted a crowd. Thirty-five self-professed comedians turned out; 75 percent were students, the other quarter came from the community. "You get plenty of people who are there because their friends tell them they're funny," Westcott said.

They selected several known personalities – Joe Conte, Joe Fernandez and student Scott Schendlinger – all of whom perform regularly at Mercer's Late Night Series, as well as some sparkling new talents including Englishman Paul Welsh, Mike Weiss, Chris McDevitt and student Stanley Swain.

"They were drawn by the chance to perform in a great space like Kelsey Theatre," Westcott said. The backstage crew included student volunteers Carol Zingone, Aaron Zeichner, Andrew Lamberson, and Kate Volz. Westcott himself designed a website for the show (www.parentaladvisoryshow.bravehost.com), while another student worked with a company online that produced snazzy "Parental Advisory" tee shirts.

"It was the best time I've had in my life, and a big stepping stone," Westcott said. So successful was the show that Parental Advisory '07 is already booked for next January.

Since starting at Mercer in September, 2005, Westcott has appeared at Kelsey Theatre as Hugo in "Bye Bye Birdie," as Schroeder in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," and in two student productions, "Love's Fire" and

The "Parental Advisory" student crew, left to right, are Carol Zingone, Aaron Zeichner, Kate Volz, Keenan (a.k.a. Kyrus) Westcott, Andrew Lamberson, and Josiah DeAndrea, seated.



Mercer alum Jeff Sinding, front row center, with high school students in Japan.

so much freedom, creativity, and fun in my job!" Sinding is back in school himself, pursuing his M.B.A. at Felician.

Sinding has many personal reasons to welcome the international direction his life has taken. He met his wife, whom he married in March, at one of his affiliated universities in Japan, where she worked in the International Exchange Office. "We graduated the same year in high school, junior college and university. We have the same interests, and have so much fun together. I've traveled to Japan over a dozen times now, and love it each time I go."

His wedding took place in Hakone, Japan, overlooking Mt. Fuji, on the edge of Lake Ashi. After a honeymoon in Kyoto, the couple returned to the United States.

In a recent letter to MCCC Professor Michael Shea, one of his first Mercer teachers, Sinding had this to say: "I'll never forget my beginnings and how people like you gave me the confidence and encouragement to take on challenges and pursue my dreams. Thank you so much for that! You have a lot to do with everything that has brought me to where I am now – a very happy person."

Pilots Remember Their Mercer Roots

Al Kopp and Anastasia Sollner, pilots trained at MCCC, sent this recent photo of themselves on the job, flying an ERJ 145 for Continental Express. Kopp graduated from Mercer's Aviation Flight Technology program and Sollner earned her flight training credentials at Mercer.



"Godspell." "I never expected anything like this," he says of his Mercer experience. "It was a good decision to come here. This has confirmed for me – in granite – that acting is what I want to do. I would recommend Mercer to anybody, especially if they're still trying to figure out what they want to do with their lives."

This former student government president at Nottingham High School offers another piece of advice to prospective students: "Just participate. Get involved in everything you can. It's the key to making school a fun experience.

"I like to leave my mark," Wescott observed. "I want people to remember me." If his first year at Mercer is any indication, they are likely to remember good things about Keenan Westcott – parental advisories notwithstanding.



Women's Softball

The softball team will contemplate "what ifs" for months to come. The women turned their 12-14 mid-season record into a 30-16 triumphant march to the Region 19 tournament. There they battled with the region's best. They opened the tournament on April 28 with a 7-6 loss to Mercyhurst CC, their nemesis from last season. In the next game, they defeated Lackawanna 6-3 to stay alive, but in need of three consecutive wins to earn the title and a trip to the Northeast District championship.

On April 29 the Vikings defeated Del Tech 4-3 in an 11-inning contest. Then they faced Mercyhurst again, this time coming out the 3-2 winners. Needing one more win over Mercyhurst, as in last year's title game, the Vikings couldn't quite get the job done. They lost 1-0 on April 30 with the lone run coming in the bottom of the sixth inning.

"It's tough as a coach. You never want to see your team lose," said Head Coach Ryan Zegarski. Still, the team's accomplishments this season were outstanding, Zegarski said. Both pitchers, Jessica Goodstein and Ashley McHenry, made stellar contributions. Other standouts included team captain, short stop Jill Benning-



field, sophomore outfielder Crystal Everett, freshman infielder Katy Hubbard, who led the team with 46 RBIs, and freshman centerfielder Ashley Williams, who was the team's lead hitter (.442) and went 14 for 23 in the regional tournament (.608 average).

Zegarski notes that early in the season, the team lost lots of close games. "Then we went back to the fundamentals - pitching and defense. We started doing the small things right that help you win games. In every game, I knew I would get 110 percent from this group. They were very dedicated."

Back row, left to right: Kathy Park, Crystal Everett, Ashley Williams, Danielle Zaletski, Katie Ashe, Danielle Juricic, and Head Coach Ryan Zegarski; front row, left to right: Ashley McHenry, Jessica Goodstein, Jen Scheman, Krystal Schnarr, Jill Benningfield, Katy Hubbard and Cyndi Fregoni.

Williams was named to the NJCAA All-American team, the first MCCC softball player to make the team since 1989. She will be a leader next season, as the Vikings look to replace six starting sophomores.

Men's Tennis



Sitting, left to right: Matt Pellegrino, Jade St. Omer, Jeff Weber, Donald Follmer, Anthony Neuls and Kyle Devlin; standing, left to right: Head Coach Stan Dlugosz, Marc Nichols, Jeremy Schmitter, Juan Chavez, Scott Zanon and Coach Marc Vecchiolla.

The men's tennis team can take great satisfaction from its accomplishments in 2006. Its third-place finish in the NJCAA National Tournament, held May 15-19 in Plano, TX, was the team's best finish in Mercer history. According to Head Coach Stan Dlugosz, their success was due in large part to the return of all but one player from the talented 2005 squad, which came in second in the region last year, and the addition of two strong players at the no. 1 and no. 2 spots. "And then it was about every player contributing," he said. "At the nationals, we won all our first round matches and all but one in the quarterfinals."

Coming off a highly successful 8-1 regular season, the men faced a competitive Gloucester squad in the Region 19 tournament May 6-7. The Vikings won with 21 points, followed by Gloucester with 16 and Brookdale with 13.

The roster included: Marc Nichols (#1), Kyle Devlin (#2), Jeremy Schmitter (#3), Scott Zanon (#4), Jeff Weber (#5) and Anthony Neuls (#6); in doubles action were Nichols/Schmitter (#1), Devlin/Zanon (#2) and Weber/Donald Follmer (#3).

Dlugosz notes that the Vikings were helped at the nationals by a good draw, the result of their strong showing at a national invitational tournament they participated in earlier in the season. At the nationals, Mercer compiled 29 points after champs Oxford (41 points) and runner-up Rock Valley, IL (32 points). Regional rival Gloucester CC came in fourth with 21 points. MCCC's second doubles team of Devlin/Zanon was unstoppable, winning the national title. Devlin came in second at no. 2 singles. Mercer advanced all eight flights into the semi-final round with seven straight set wins and one three-set win. In their semi-final matches, Nichols/Schmitter and Weber/Follmer fought tough battles, losing in three sets.

Devlin/Zanon were named All-Americans at second doubles. In addition to his players' talent on the court, Dlugosz also praised the academic accomplishments of Schmitter, Weber and Neuls.

Dlugosz was assisted this year by Peter Stratton, a tennis player who was a 1968 Mercer soccer All-American, Marty Devlin, a Hall of Famer who teaches tennis, and Marc Vecchiolla.

Women's Tennis

The Vikings women's tennis team fought until the very last match but came up one point short in defending their 2005 national title. Montgomery College (Rockville, MD) won the team competition with 23 points. Mercer, which trailed heavily going into the final day, finished with an impressive 22 points.

According to Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla, this was a case of the better team finishing second. "That's sports, and that's why we play. The scoring system is what it is, and we accept that. Rockville won all of their first round matches and that was the difference. We beat Rockville head to head in all four matches we played against them and we won four out of nine flights. Rockville only won one flight. Our record was 16-5 in all matches played; Rockville's final record in the tournament was 10-8."

Going into the final day, Mercer had nine points and Rockville had 21. "We needed to win all of our final matches to win the tournament," Vecchiolla said. "We ended up winning seven and losing one." He noted that the players' ability to battle back from such a deficit and come within one point of winning shows their character.

The roster included co-captain Natalia Huff (#1), Caitlin Bagdonas (#2), Rachel Hendrickson (#3), co-captain Krystle Duay (#4), Siobhan Cahill (#5), Sherry Lin (#6), Jane Senor (#7), Monica Nichols (#8), Daniela Provost (#9), and Jessica Fleming (#10); doubles pairings were Huff/Senor at #1, Bagdonas/Cahill at #2 and Hendrickson/Duay at #3.

Like last year, the Mercer roster was strong in all nine flights. "I'll be talking about this particular team for years. I've been awestruck by their chemistry and commitment to their games and to each other," Vecchiolla said. He was assisted during the fall and spring seasons by Ralph Bencivengo and Barb Pleva.

Players selected to the All-American first team were Caitlin Bagdonas and Rachel Hendrickson in singles, and Bagdonas/Cahill and Duay/Hendrickson in doubles; Sherry Lin was selected to the All-American second team.

Men's Basketball

When the men's basketball team ended its season in the Northeast District Tournament on March 11 with an 84-79 loss to Orange CC (NY), Head Coach Kelly Williams acknowledged that "as a coach you always want one more game." But he's more than satisfied with the Vikings' 22-7 season and the team's first trip to the District Tournament since 1998.

"It was by far the best season in my seven years as coach," Williams said. "The players made the effort both athletically and academically." Even the losses were close, he notes, with three in overtime, and three by less than 10 points. Williams enjoyed his 100th career win in a 63-50 victory over Brookdale on Nov. 29.

All season long, Mercer got stellar contributions from numerous play-makers, relying on speed and a full-court defense that tired many worthy opponents. Key players included sophomores Mantas Armonas, who averaged 15 points per game, and Cliff Barnhill, who was particularly effective in late-season wins.

Freshmen made up the rest of the line-up. "They were really good kids," Williams said. "It made my job a lot easier. Armonas and Barnhill set a tone that the freshmen players signed on to," he noted. Freshmen notables included guard and team captain Eric Blackmon-Hayes, 6'8" center Jores Dongo, forwards Landry Nguema, Anthony Ross and Don McCall, and guard Craig Dacres.

"This was a young group," Williams said. "This first-year experience should help to make them stronger mentally and physically for next year. That has always been my vision: to produce quality players and keep them here for two years."

First team All-Region and All-GSAC honors went to Dongo and Armonas.



Back row, left to right: Head Coach Kelly Williams, Asst. Coach Mike Falco, Anthony Ross, Tom Gutowski, Irmel Dongo, Miles Smith, Jr., Landry Nguema, and Asst. Coach Gary Williams; front row, left to right, Marcus Johnson, Craig Dacres, Mantas Armonas, Marques Keith, Eric Blackmon-Hayes and Will Fairbanks. Not pictured: Don McCall and Clinton Barnhill.

Women's Basketball

The basketball season for the Lady Vikes came to an end all too soon this year in the opening round of the Region 19 play-offs. Despite a 10-point lead at halftime and 37 points contributed by team leader Patti Foley, the women lost 82-71 to Essex on Feb. 27. The women's final record was 16-14.

According to Head Coach Mike Tenaglia, who completed his 16th year with the Vikings, the season was peppered with adversity, including the loss of several key players due to injuries and second-semester academic ineligibility. "Sometimes, trying your best despite the obstacles is what sports is all about," he said. He achieved a personal high note on Feb. 2, reaching 250 wins as head coach.

The women were clearly disappointed not to repeat as Region 19 champs. "When you win seven championships in eight years, the expectation is there," Tenaglia noted. Still, he is proud of his players' efforts. "We won - and lost - a number of games by close margins. That says that the players were putting everything into it."

The team's indisputable "go to" player was freshman forward Patti Foley, who averaged 21 points per game and was the sixth leading scorer in the country. Other players who saw a lot of court time were sophomores, captain Leslie Maurer and forward Kathy Prassas, freshmen guards Christina Calabrese, Ashley Diggs, Nicole Hover, and Katy Hubbard, and forward Rosie Fedak. Tenaglia notes that this young squad has the potential to be very effective next year.

Men's Baseball

It was a long and winding road to the end of the season for the baseball team. Despite a good work ethic and team chemistry, the Vikings ended the season with a disappointing 14-19 record.

Still, there was much positive momentum, according to first-year Head Coach Matt Wolski. "I didn't know the level of the competition we would face," Wolski noted. Now with a season under his belt, he expects to see his players continue to build on the skills they developed this year. He credits the team with strong pitching and good offense, but notes that defense was lacking at critical times.

Wolski reports that pitchers Chris Turissi and Rick Sutton played key roles in Viking wins, while sophomore outfielder Dan Mattonelli was named to the All-Region team.

With only 16 players on the roster, the squad held up as best it could, but "they were tired and worn out by the end of the season," Wolski said. He anticipates that all of this year's eligible freshmen will return to the line-up next year and he is actively recruiting quality players from around the region. "The Mercer baseball program has a good reputation," he notes. "That tradition of success helps."

Wolski was assisted this season by Fred Carella and MCCC alum Kevin Kearns.

They're On Their Way: Scholar-Athletes Transfer*

Men's Soccer

Thomas DeStefano	N. Carolina State Univ.
Nicholas Devine	Coast Guard Academy
Thomas Fink	Kean Univ.
Jeff Fisher	Kean Univ.
Jason James	S. Connecticut St. Univ.
Marius Kapxhiu	S. Connecticut St. Univ.
Anthony Tuesto	Kean University

Women's Soccer

Jennifer DiPersio	The College of N.J.
Jenna Scaccetti	E. Stroudsburg St. Univ.
Lisa Walters	Coastal Carolina Univ.

Baseball

Richard Gawlak	The College of N.J.
Daniel Mattonelli	Kean University
Dan Czepiga	The College of N.J.

Women's Softball

Cynthia Fregoni	Georgia St. Univ.
Jessica Goodstein	The College of N.J.
Jill Benningfield	The College of N.J.
Kristin Lup	Delaware Valley College
Ashley McHenry	Rider University
Katie Ashe	The College of N.J.

Men's Basketball

Mantas Armonas	Univ. of Bridgeport
Thomas Gutowski	The College of N.J.
Marcus Johnson	Savannah State Univ.
Miroslaw Babiarz	Wingate College

Women's Basketball

Katherine Prassas	Monmouth Univ.
Leslie Maurer	Stockton College

*As of 6/7/06; for updated list visit Sports News on the website.

MERCER

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Check out MCCC's website, www.mccc.edu, with its easy online registration. Browse open sections in credit and noncredit courses. Previously registered students can view their grades and course history.

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TAMI JONES
Ornamental Horticulture

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2006

Mercer Arts Calendar at Kelsey Theatre Fall 2006 Schedule

Full-Length Productions

Honk! The Ugly Duckling Musical
Sept. 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17

Arsenic & Old Lace
Oct. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15

Dracula: The Musical
Oct. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29

The Prince & The Pauper – The Musical
Nov. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19

It's a Wonderful Life – The Musical
Nov. 24, 25, 26; Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10

The Baker's Wife
Jan. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

Kelsey Kids Series

Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon
Sept. 23

A Pocketful of Rhymes
Sept. 29, 30; Oct. 1

The Emperor's New Clothes
Oct. 14

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
Oct. 28

The Dirty Sock Funtime Band
Nov. 4

'Twas The Night Before Christmas
Dec. 15, 16, 17

The Nutcracker
Dec. 22, 23

The Gizmo Guys
Jan. 6

The Russian American Kids Circus
Jan. 20

James & The Giant Peach
Jan. 26

For Kelsey events call
(609) 570-3333
or visit our website at
www.kelseytheatre.net

Events at MCCC's Gallery

A full slate of exhibits will be coming to the MCCC Gallery this fall. View the schedule soon at www.mccc.edu/community_gallery.



Academic Calendar

Plan your fall courses now.

- August 22** Last day to register for most fall semester classes before late fees apply.
- August 28** Classes begin for 5-week, 7-week and 15-week sessions.
- October 3** Classes begin for 5- and 10-week sessions
- October 24** Classes begin for 7-week session
- November 7** Classes begin for 5-week session